



OFFICE OF ADVOCACY *FACTSHEET*

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Advocacy Commends EPA and Recommends Further Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses from Oil Spill Regulations

On June 10, 2004, the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (Advocacy) wrote the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commending the agency for plans to extend the compliance deadline for requirements imposed by the July 2002 Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) rule. Advocacy also recommended the EPA take additional action to alleviate significant and unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses. A copy of this comment may be accessed at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments>.

- The Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule establishes requirements to prevent discharges of oil from certain facilities from reaching U.S. waters.
- Among other provisions, the SPCC rule requires hundreds of thousands of small businesses to have professional engineers (PEs) review and certify SPCC plans. The high cost of this PE certification, estimated in excess of \$500 million, is of concern to these small facilities, including farms, car dealerships, and construction companies.
- Advocacy has been working closely with the EPA Oil Program Center to modify the SPCC rule, and is pleased that EPA has long term plans to amend the rule to lower the costs of the program, while maintaining environmental protection.
- Advocacy urged EPA to address major areas of the SPCC regulation that warrant immediate rulemaking action to solve problems not addressed by an extension of the effective date of the 2002 rule amendments.
- Pending completion of a further rulemaking, Advocacy recommended that EPA issue an interim final rule to provide immediate regulatory relief for: (1) small facilities, (2) integrity testing, (3) motive power and oil-filled equipment and, (4) asphalt cement and hot-mix asphalt.

For more information, visit Advocacy's website at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/> or contact Kevin Bromberg at (202) 205-6964.